

Location - Begins on U.S. 95 in downtown Sandpoint and follows U.S. 95 north through Bonners Ferry to the junction of U.S. 95 and Idaho I, then proceeds north on Idaho I to the International Border at Porthill.

Length - 48.2 miles from Sandpoint to junction of U.S. 95/Idaho I, II miles to the International Border at Porthill. Allow 1.5 hours.

Roadway - U.S. 95 is predominantly a two-lane, paved road with 4 lanes starting 2 miles north of Sandpoint for 5 miles. There is a halfmile passing lane north of McArthur Lake traveling north, a 1-mile passing lane northbound south of Bonners Ferry, a 2-mile southbound passing lane south of Bonners Ferry, and a 4-lane bypass at Bonners Ferry continues north for 3 miles.

When to see it - Throughout the year. Four full, distinct seasons with activities and events available every month. Fall colors are especially dramatic.

Special attractions - Lake Pend Oreille; Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge; Panhandle National Forest; McArthur Lake Wildlife Corridor; Kootenai Sturgeon Hatchery; Historic Bonners Ferry and Kootenai River.

Camping - Privately owned campgrounds in and around Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry. USFS camping at Smith Lake, 5 miles north of Bonners Ferry, seven sites, no fee. Other USFS camping near by at Meadow Creek, Robinson Lake, Copper Creek and Samowen.

Services - Full services in Sandpoint and Bonners Ferry.

Contacts - Sandpoint Visitor Center: 800-800-2106; Greater Sandpoint Chamber of Commerce: 208-263-0887, www.sandpointchamber.org; Greater Bonners Ferry Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center: 208-267-5922, www.bonnersferrychamber.com; International Selkirk Loop: 888-823-2626, www.selkirkloop.org; Sandpoint Ranger District: 208-263-5111; Bonners Ferry Ranger District: 208-267-5561, www.fs.fed.us/ipnf; US Customs at Porthill: 208-267-5309; Idaho Department of Lands: 208-267-5577 or 208-263-5104.

Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway

The Wild Horse Trail Scenic Byway is part of the International Selkirk Loop, designated North America's only International Scenic Byway. The Byway starts on the northwestern shores of Lake Pend Oreille in the resort community of Sandpoint. Heading north along the eastern side of the Selkirk Mountains the roadway follows the Kootenai Tribe's historic path to fishing grounds at Lake Pend Oreille. In 1808 the first white explorer David Thompson also utilized this trail. The "Wild Horse Trail" became more than a path in 1863 when gold was discovered in "Wild Horse Creek," 120 miles to the north of Bonners Ferry Idaho in British Columbia. There was a large movement

of men and pack animals along the "Wild Horse Trail" until the gold rush ceased circa 1880.

Upon arrival of the Northern Pacific railroad to this region David Thompson's old route became a main freight line for the railroad.

Just south of Bonners Ferry a stunning wide glacial valley comes into view. The rich soil deposits left behind as the glaciers receded formed fertile lands which even today support a wide variety of agriculture throughout the Kootenai Valley.

The Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge west of Bonners Ferry and the McArthur Lake Wildlife Management area offers a wealth of recreational opportunities including wildlife viewing, bird watching and hilking trails. There are six major access roads leading into the Selkirk Mountains onto Panhandle National Forest lands where recreational opportunities for hiking, fishing, camping, Nordic skiing and snowmobiling can be enjoyed.



See Selkirk Loop map on page 8.